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CURSE OF THE SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE &
IMAGE COMICS™ PRESENTS:

"BLOOD AND RAIN"

STORY
ALAN McELROY
PENCILS
DWAYNE TURNER
INKS
DANNY MIKI
COPY EDITOR & LETTERS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI
COLOR
TODD BROEKER
MARK NICHOLAS
A SPECIAL THANKS TO:
JOHN GORDON

DEDICATED TO :
ALBERT AND LULA TURNER

FOR IMAGE COMICS™
LARRY MARDER
Executive Director

Curse of the Spawn #5 Summary:
John Mawbley is a methodical serial killer who is certain he is cleansing society of its evil. When Gretchen Culver happens upon the carnage of Mawbley's crowd killing, she escapes into traffic and is critically injured. She regains consciousness while being raped by the police escort and ambulance attendants, only to be beaten unconscious again. Thinking she is dead, they deliver her to another serial killer for disposal. Meanwhile, Sam and Twitch are ridiculed by their former police brethren for being private investigators even as they help them investigate still another murder case. When Twitch begins to question their career change, they land the missing persons case of Gretchen Culver.

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President of Entertainment, Publishing & Licensing: TERRY FITZGERALD
Graphics Coordinator: JULIA SIMMONS Editorial Coordinator: MELANIE SIMMONS

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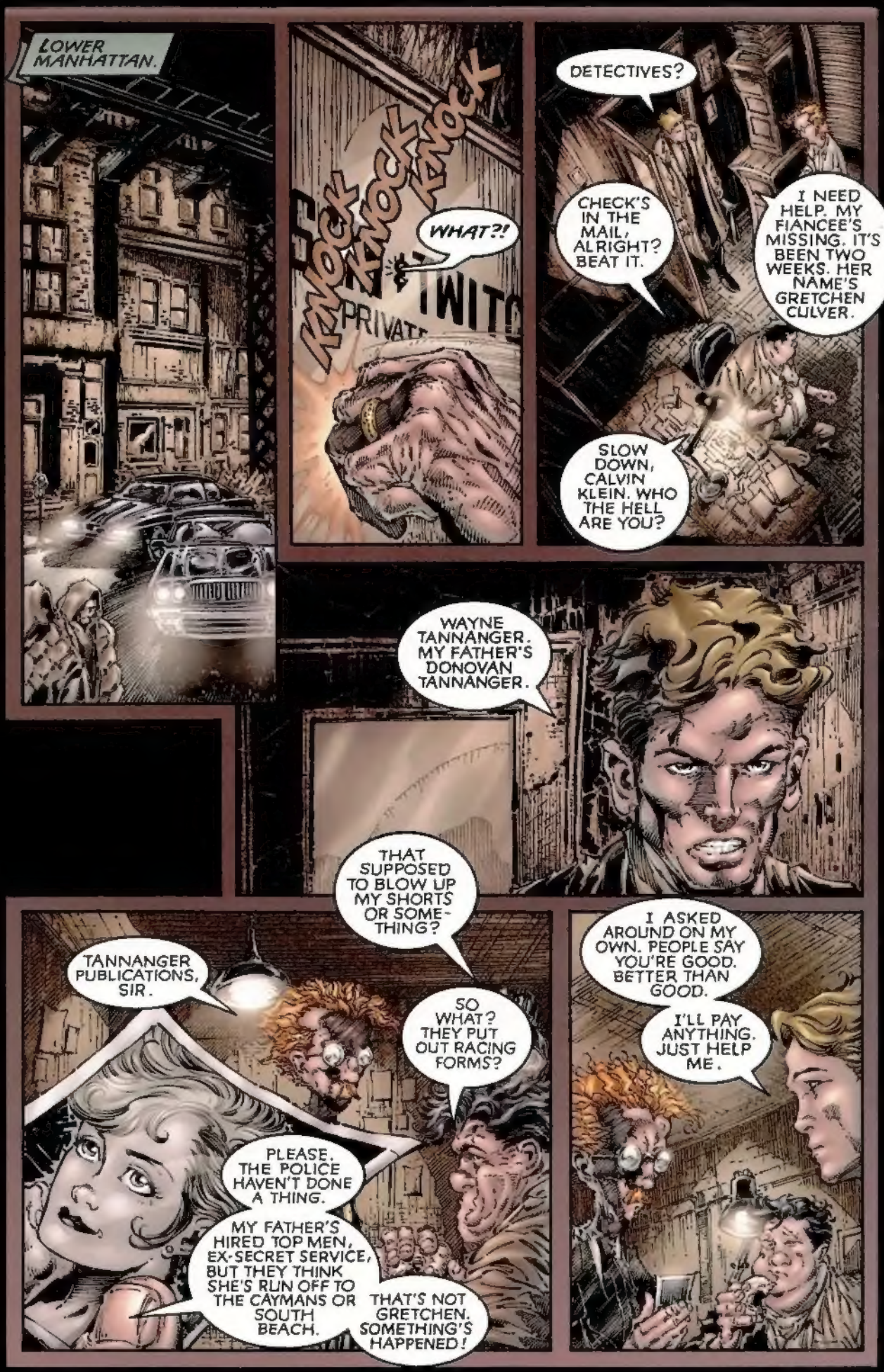
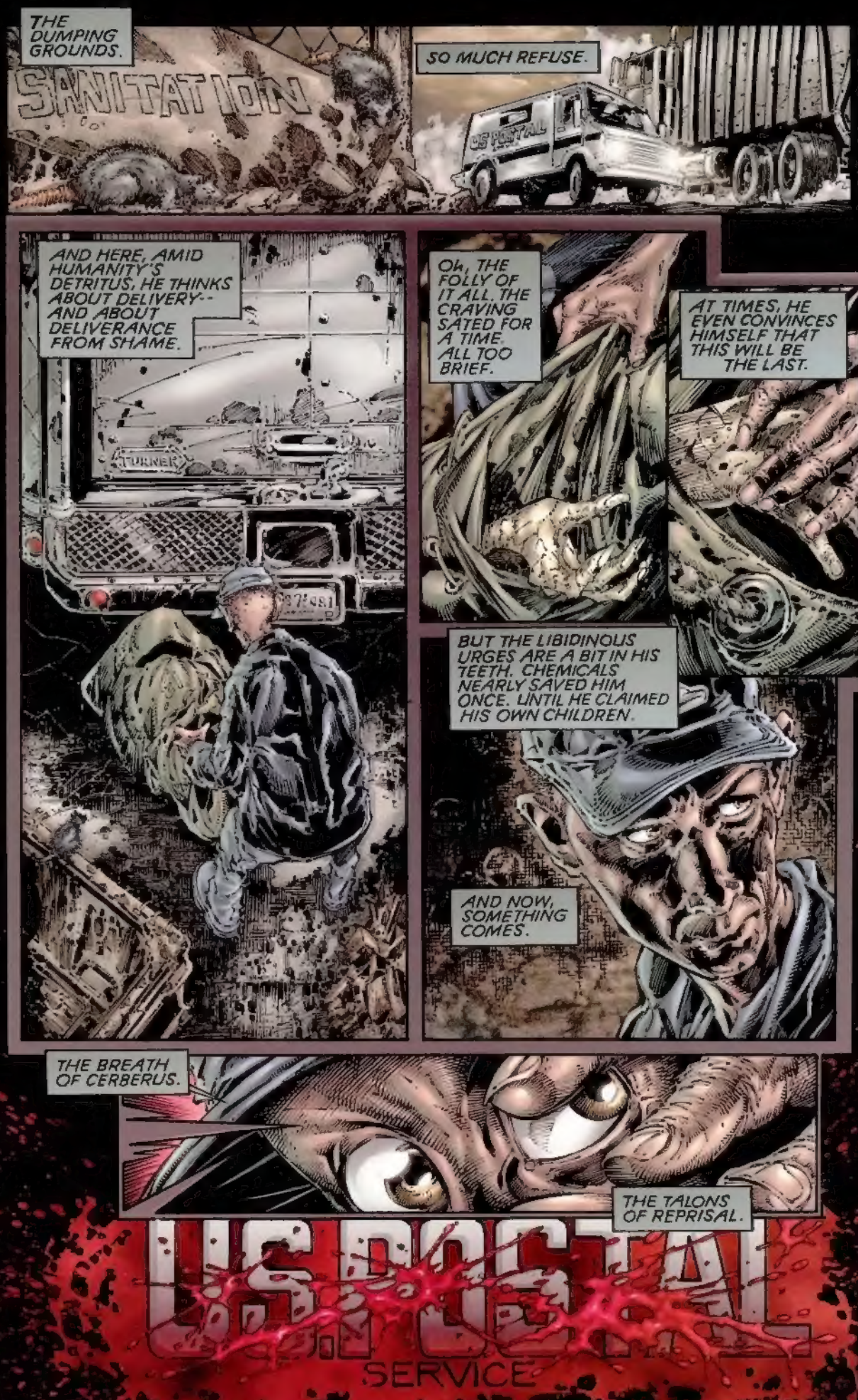
WHERE DOES THE PAIN GO? THE SCREAMS? THE WAILS FOR MERCY?
SPENT AND CAST ASIDE LIKE SO MUCH ASH IN A POOR MAN'S CREMATORIUM.
AND AS IT DRIFTS TO PLACES WE CANNOT SEE, WHO RESCUES AND GATHERS THE REMAINS?
WHO WILL MAKE THE TORMENT OF OUR LIVES MATTER?... WEIGH THEM ON JUSTICE'S SCALES?

St. PETER AT THE GATE WILL PERHAPS TAKE OUR BURDEN AS WE ARE USHERED TOWARD SOME BEATIFIC MISTLAND OF SERENITY.
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE FORM OF REPAYMENT FOR SUCH DEBT.
BUT WE ALL KNOW DEEP IN THE BLEAK, ENCRUSTED CREVICES OF OUR UNTOWARD BEING THAT TOLLS REMAIN UNPAID. A BALANCE OWING HANGS LIKE A JAGGED BLADE-- WAITING.
NEEDING.
LADY ODESSA
ONE RECKONING.

LIFE IS FLUID.
WHERE YOU *SAID*, ODESSA. RIGHT THERE ON THE BANK.
DEATH THIRSTS.
THE SAINTS OF HER WORLD HAVE WATCHED THIS PLAY TOO OFTEN.
AND THOSE WHO KNOW ODESSA ALSO KNOW HER WAYS LEAD DOWN PATHS NOT EASILY TREAD.
THE ORISHAS SPEAK AND SPILL THEIR WOVEN COILS OF APATAKI -- THE TALES OF SANTARIAN MORALITY-- IN WAYS NO WESTERNER CAN COMPREHEND.
IS A BAD ONE, THIS?
GO FROM HERE NOW.

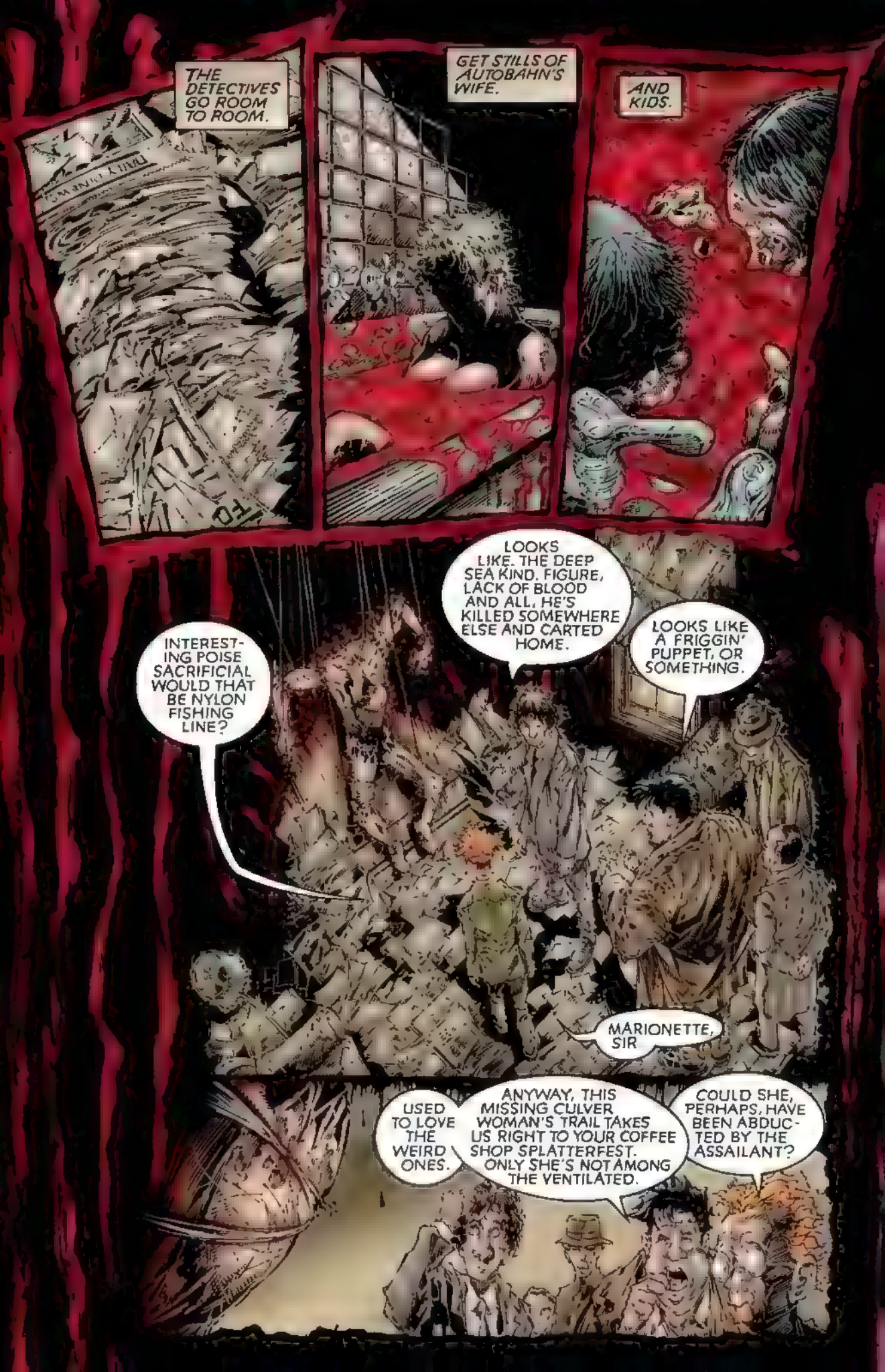
SHE FEELS IT NOW IN WAVES. THE GODLESSNESS OF THE ACTS.
SAVAGERY. MALICE. PAIN THAT GIVES ITSELF UP TO DESOLATION.
SHE HAS SEEN SO MUCH AND STILL IT SEARS HER DEEP. WHERE THE SAINTS WEEP AND FILL HER SOUL PLACE WITH ANOTHER'S.
PIECES. SO MANY PIECES.
BUT THE SUM WILL BE MORE.
A TIME TO REAP. A TIME TO SOW. A TIME TO PAY THE MAKER'S TOLL.
AAYYYAA!


LOWER MANHATTAN.
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
WHAT?!
DETECTIVES?
CHECK'S IN THE MAIL, ALRIGHT? BEAT IT.
I NEED HELP. MY FIANCEE'S MISSING. IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS. HER NAME'S GRETCHEN CULVER.
SLOW DOWN, CALVIN KLEIN. WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
WAYNE TANNANGER. MY FATHER'S DONOVAN TANNANGER.
THAT SUPPOSED TO BLOW UP MY SHORTS OR SOMETHING?
TANNANGER PUBLICATIONS, SIR.
SO WHAT? THEY PUT OUT RACING FORMS?
PLEASE. THE POLICE HAVEN'T DONE A THING.
MY FATHER'S HIRED TOP MEN, EX-SECRET SERVICE, BUT THEY THINK SHE'S RUN OFF TO THE CAYMANS OR SOUTH BEACH.
THAT'S NOT GRETCHEN. SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!
I ASKED AROUND ON MY OWN. PEOPLE SAY YOU'RE GOOD. BETTER THAN GOOD.
I'LL PAY ANYTHING. JUST HELP ME.

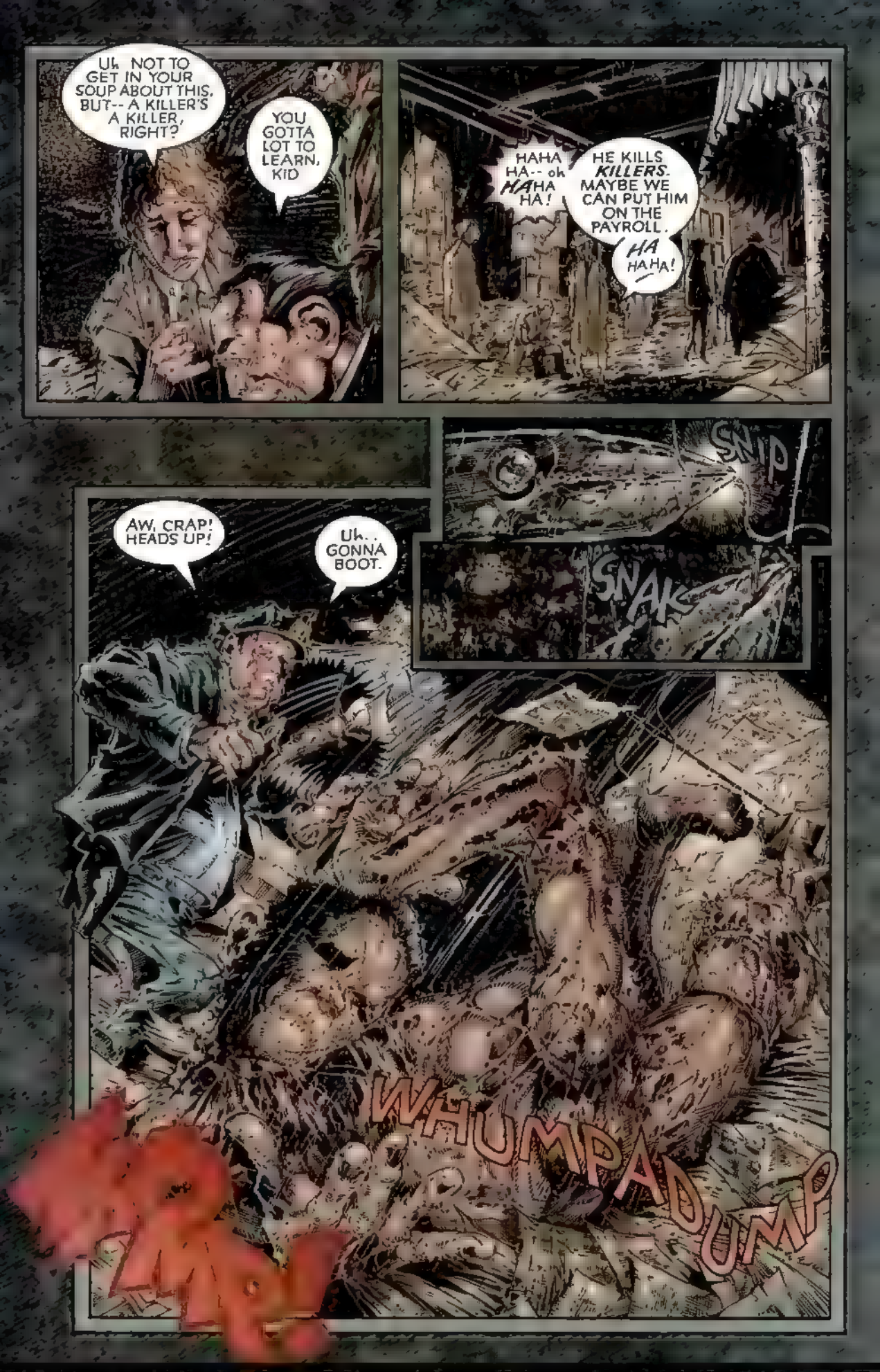

THE DUMPING GROUNDS.
SANITATION
SO MUCH REFUSE.
US POSTAL
AND HERE, AMID HUMANITY'S DETRITUS, HE THINKS ABOUT DELIVERY-- AND ABOUT DELIVERANCE FROM SHAME.
TURNER
Oh, THE FOLLY OF IT ALL. THE CRAVING SATED FOR A TIME. ALL TOO BRIEF.
AT TIMES, HE EVEN CONVINCES HIMSELF THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST.
BUT THE LIBIDINOUS URGES ARE A BIT IN HIS TEETH. CHEMICALS NEARLY SAVED HIM ONCE. UNTIL HE CLAIMED HIS OWN CHILDREN.
AND NOW, SOMETHING COMES.
THE BREATH OF CERBERUS.
THE TALONS OF REPRISAL.
US POSTAL
SERVICE

A WAREHOUSE IN THE BLIGHTED URBAN SPRAWL OF EAST BROOKLYN.
SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL.
SO PRECIOUS.
SO, TO SELL HERSELF FOR MONEY...!
TAINTING GOD'S TEMPLE...!
ONE MUST NEVER SELL ONESELF SHORT.
LIFE IS A JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL DISCOVERY. AND HE WILL SEND HER. AS HE HAS SO MANY OTHERS.
OSAKA
YAA!
TMP
CLARITY. IRONY. THE WORSHIPPER ABOUT TO BE CRUSHED BY THAT WHICH HE SO WORSHIPS.
NO.

THERE ARE SMILES ON THE FACES OF THE SAINTS THAT IMBUE. THE SILENT SCREAM AND HEAVY SPLASH OF BLOOD IS A CHORAL HYMN. A FORM OF RESPECTFUL SUPPLICATION.
THE REMAKING HAS BEGUN. THE MAKING OF BALANCE.
THE PAYBOX IS OPEN.
THE WAGES OF FEAR AWAIT THEIR TAXATION.
A RAMBLING HOUSE IN QUEENS. BUILT IN THE TWENTIES.
THE HOME OF VETERAN POSTAL WORKER FRANK AUTOBAHN.
POLICE
NYPD HOMICIDE DETECTIVES BRAYDE, EDLAND, AND NOW SPARKS. SLEEPLESS IN A NIGHTMARE.
HOW MANY MORE?
SIX, ACCORDING TO THE COUNT OF INTERNAL ORGANS. ALL JARRED AND MUMMIFIED.
JEEZUS...


THE DETECTIVES GO ROOM TO ROOM.
GET STILLS OF AUTOBAHN'S WIFE.
AND KIDS.
LOOKS LIKE. THE DEEP SEA KIND. FIGURE, LACK OF BLOOD AND ALL. HE'S KILLED SOMEWHERE ELSE AND CARTED HOME.
LOOKS LIKE A FRIGGIN' PUPPET, OR SOMETHING.
INTEREST-ING POISE SACRIFICIAL WOULD THAT BE NYLON FISHING LINE?
MARIONETTE, SIR
USED TO LOVE THE WEIRD ONES.
ANYWAY, THIS MISSING CULVER WOMAN'S TRAIL TAKES US RIGHT TO YOUR COFFEE SHOP SPLATTERFEST. ONLY SHE'S NOT AMONG THE VENTILATED.
COULD SHE, PERHAPS, HAVE BEEN ABDUC-TED BY THE ASSAILANT?

THAT, uh, WOULDN'T HOLD WITH THE KILLER'S M.O., SEEING AS HE GUNS DOWN ALL HIS VICS AND ONLY TAKES THEIR EYES.
I DO REMEMBER AN ACCIDENT ABOUT A BLOCK AWAY FROM THE COFFEE SHOP. SUPPOSEDLY SOME JANE DOE HIT BY A BLUE AND WHITE. IT BUGGED ME, SO I CHECKED INTO IT.
ALL I GOT WAS A FAX SAYING IT WAS HANDLED AND HAD NO CONNECTION TO OUR ON-GOINGS.
WHAT WE GOT SO FAR DEFINITELY FITS AUTOBAHN BEING "THE POSTMAN".
DID HE SAY "THE POSTMAN"?
IF THIS IS HIM, THAT CLEARS THIRTEEN UNSOLVED KID KILLINGS IN ELEVEN MONTHS. WHOEVER THE SON OF A BITCH IS WHACKED "THE POSTMAN" DESERVES A MEDAL. DID THE CITY A FREAKIN' FAVOR
BROOKLYN METRO JUST FOUND ANOTHER BODY. MICRO-ELECTRONICS SALESMAN NAMED SOLOMON WEAVER. STRUNG UP THE SAME AS OUR BOY.
HE'S IN A WAREHOUSE WITH A DEAD HOOKER PACKED IN A CRATE MARKED FOR OSAKA, JAPAN.
THE "CARGO-KILLER"? WE'VE BEEN AFTER HIM FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS!
HAHAHA -- oh, HAHAHA HAHA!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES ANOTHER SERIAL KILLER. ONLY THIS PSYCHO-NUTJOB LIKES TO WHACK OTHER SERIAL KILLERS!
HA HA HA HA HA!
Oh YEAH. WE'RE GONNA LOOK REAL HARD FOR THIS FREAKAZOID. WITH ANY LUCK THE BASTARD WILL CLEAR OUT OUR BACK-LOG OF OPEN MULTIPLE MURDER CASES. WOULDN'T THAT BE A KICK IN THE ASS, huh?
Oh, HAHA HA HA HA!


Uh. NOT TO GET IN YOUR SOUP ABOUT THIS, BUT-- A KILLER'S A KILLER, RIGHT?
YOU GOTTA LOT TO LEARN, KID
HAHA HA-- oh HAHA HA!
HE KILLS KILLERS. MAYBE WE CAN PUT HIM ON THE PAYROLL.
HA HAHA!
SNIP
SNAK
AW, CRAP! HEADS UP!
Uh.. GONNA BOOT.
WHUMPA DUMP

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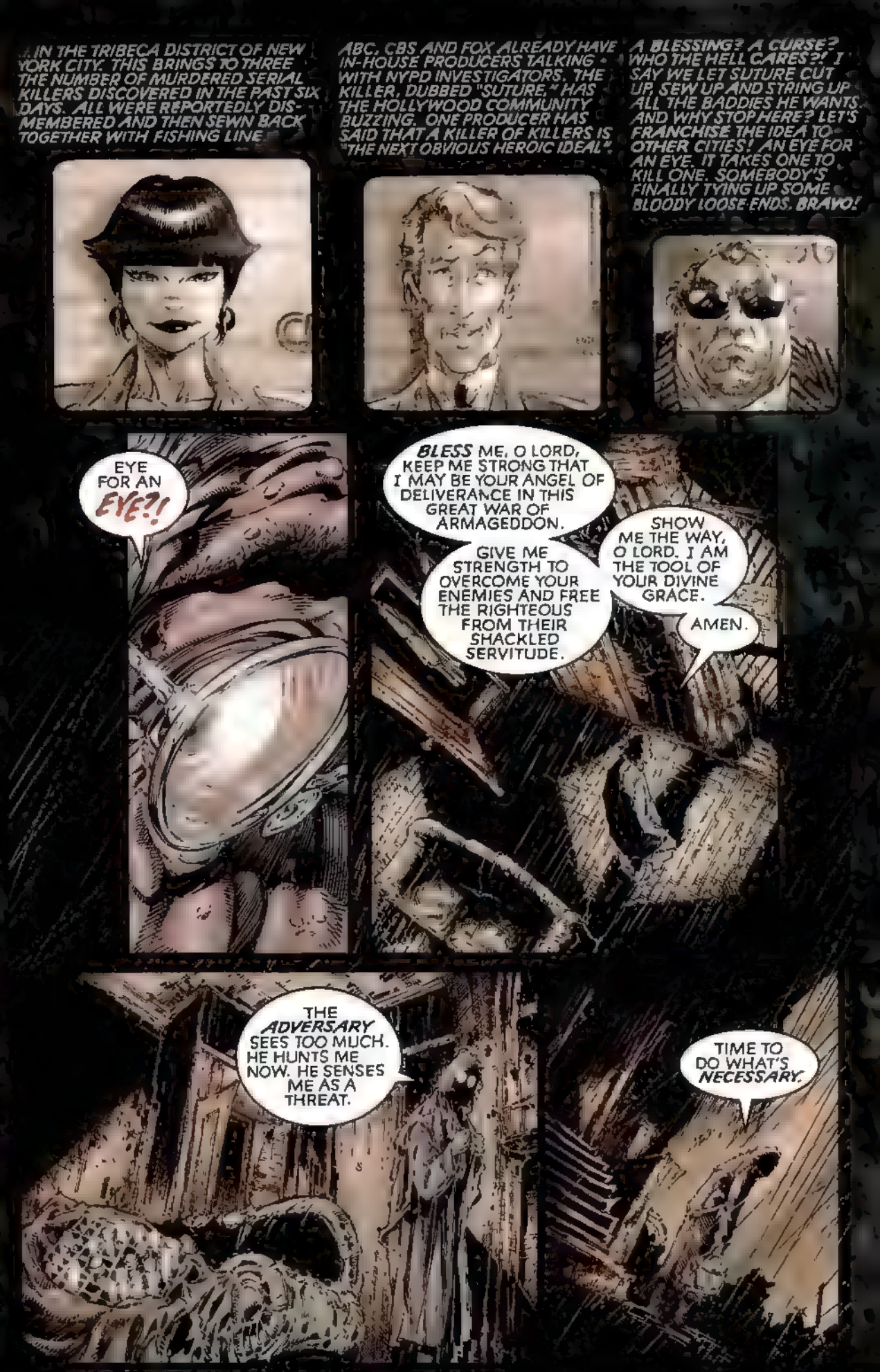
THE SOUTH BRONX.
WHERE THE ALIEN HAS SET UP HIS OUTPOST.
SO MUCH TO SAY. SO MUCH TO TELL. THE WARNINGS MUST BE CLEAR.
CONCISE.
A DOCTRINE FOR THE KNIGHTS AND MISSIONARIES WHO WILL FOLLOW IN HIS NOBLE CRUSADE.
THERE CAN BE NO REST. NO SLEEP. NO SLIVERS OF DEATH TO WASTE PRECIOUS MOMENTS.
EACH NEW WORD IS A BEACON. A PUZZLE PIECE SO CAREFULLY DECIPHERED.
COWARDS.
JOHN MAWBLEY KNOWS HIS TASK. HE IS IN A WAR AGAINST FORCES THAT KNOW NO BOUNDS.
AND, IN THE MIDST OF HIS JOURNALISTIC DISCOURSE ON THE PSEUDO-SEXUAL HORRORS OF SUBTERRANEAN MASS TRANSIT, A NEW WRINKLE FURROWS HIS BROW.
IN OTHER BREAKING NEWS, ANOTHER SERIAL KILLER LONG SOUGHT BY POLICE HAS BEEN FOUND BRUTALLY MURDERED...


...IN THE TRIBECA DISTRICT OF NEW YORK CITY. THIS BRINGS TO THREE THE NUMBER OF MURDERED SERIAL KILLERS DISCOVERED IN THE PAST SIX DAYS. ALL WERE REPORTEDLY DISMEMBERED AND THEN SEWN BACK TOGETHER WITH FISHING LINE.
ABC, CBS AND FOX ALREADY HAVE IN-HOUSE PRODUCERS TALKING WITH NYPD INVESTIGATORS. THE KILLER, DUBBED "SUTURE," HAS THE HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY BUZZING. ONE PRODUCER HAS SAID THAT A KILLER OF KILLERS IS "THE NEXT OBVIOUS HEROIC IDEAL".
A BLESSING? A CURSE? WHO THE HELL CARES?! I SAY WE LET SUTURE CUT UP, SEW UP AND STRING UP ALL THE BADDIES HE WANTS. AND WHY STOP HERE? LET'S FRANCHISE THE IDEA TO OTHER CITIES! AN EYE FOR AN EYE. IT TAKES ONE TO KILL ONE. SOMEBODY'S FINALLY TYING UP SOME BLOODY LOOSE ENDS. BRAVO!
EYE FOR AN EYE?!
BLESS ME, O LORD, KEEP ME STRONG THAT I MAY BE YOUR ANGEL OF DELIVERANCE IN THIS GREAT WAR OF ARMAGEDDON.
GIVE ME STRENGTH TO OVERCOME YOUR ENEMIES AND FREE THE RIGHTEOUS FROM THEIR SHACKLED SERVITUDE.
SHOW ME THE WAY, O LORD. I AM THE TOOL OF YOUR DIVINE GRACE.
AMEN.
THE ADVERSARY SEES TOO MUCH. HE HUNTS ME NOW. HE SENSES ME AS A THREAT.
TIME TO DO WHAT'S NECESSARY.

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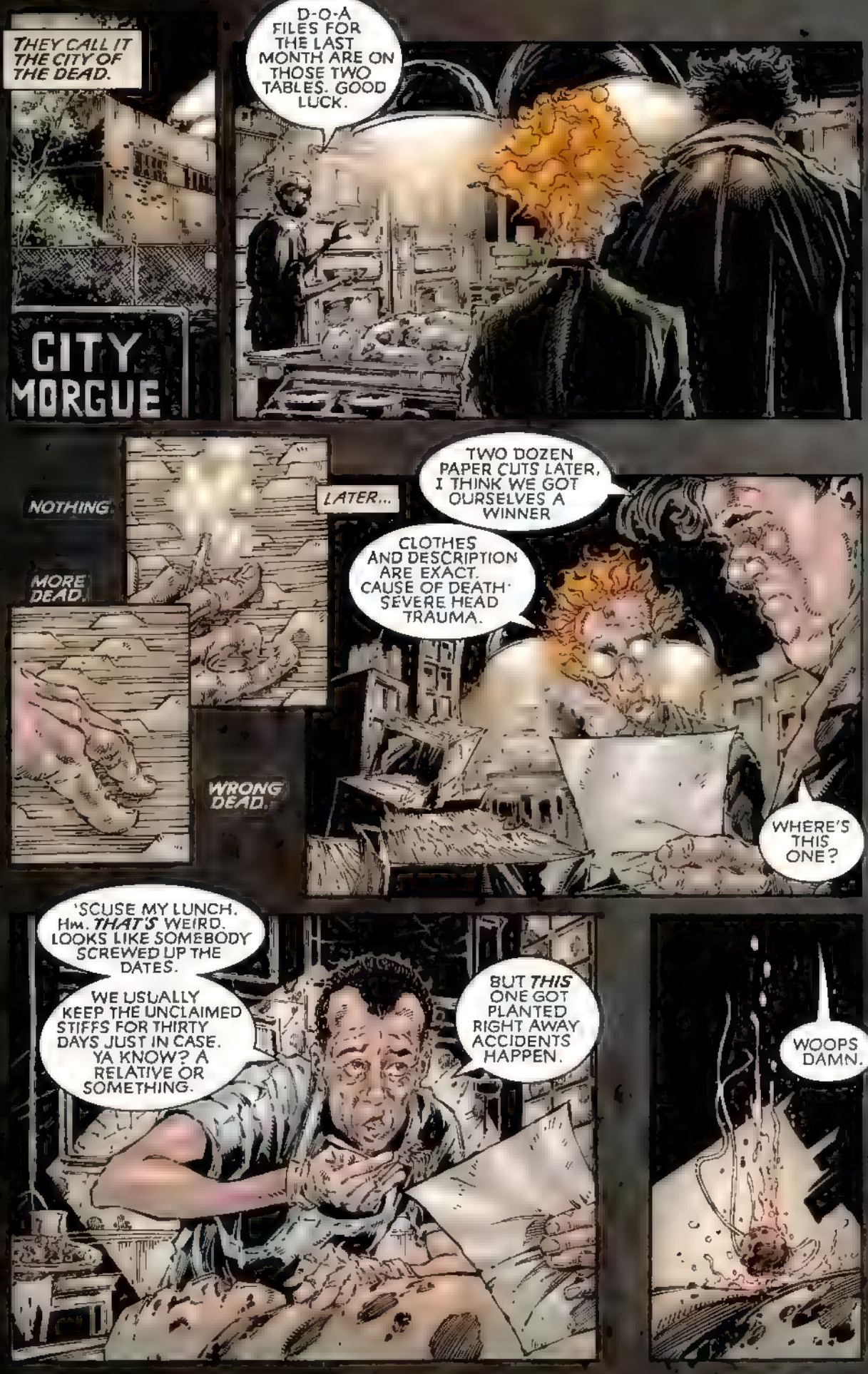
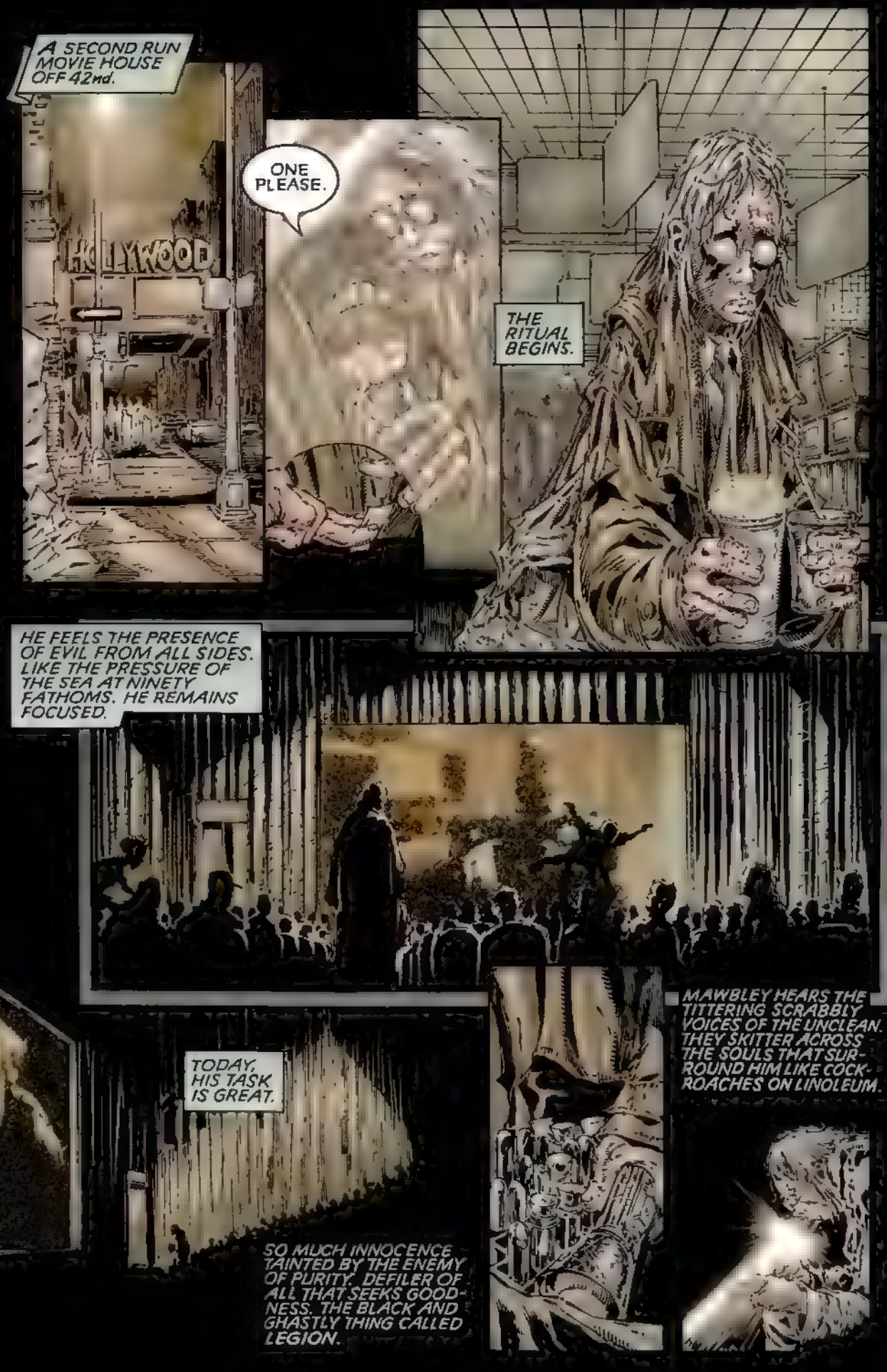
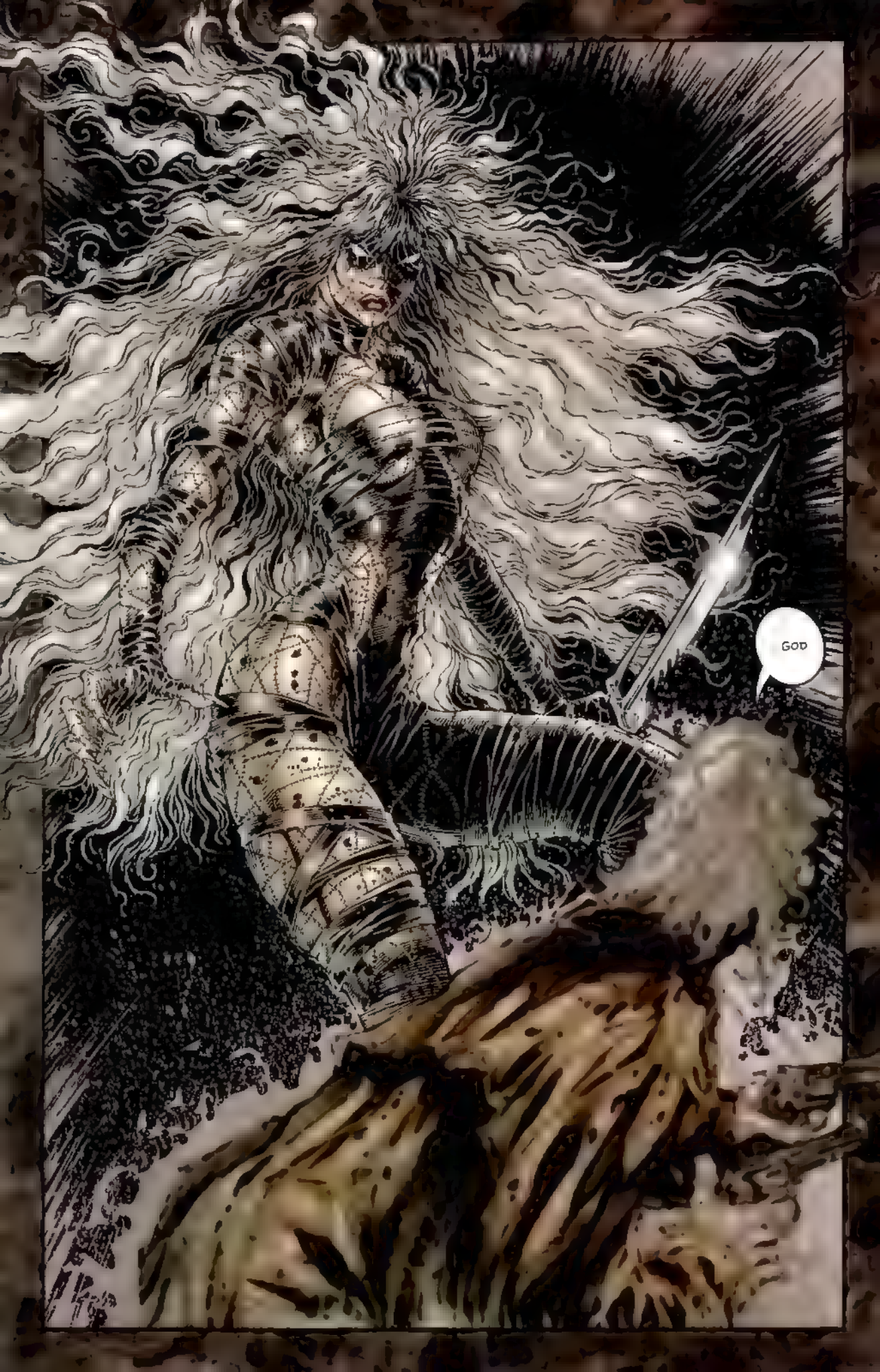
A DINER ON CHELSEA. A KNOWN COP HANGOUT.
INTERESTING AROMA, SIR.
CHIP-BEEF ON TOAST. HOUSE SPECIALTY.
OFFICER DEKE, WE'RE INVESTIGATING A MISSING PERSON'S CASE. YOU WERE INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT ON THE SEVENTEENTH OF LAST MONTH. IS THAT CORRECT?
SEVEN-TEENTH, huh? I'M FOGGY.
DO RE-MEMBER SOME SKEL BLOWING OFF HALF MY PARTNER'S HAND THAT DAY
EVERYTHING ELSE, WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO STINKIN' DICKS ASKING QUESTIONS, I GOT WHAT YA CALL SELECTIVE ALZHEIMER'S.
NOW BEAT IT BEFORE I BLOW LUNCH ALL OVER YOUR SNAZZY TRENCH COATS
I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO JOG YOUR MEMORY, KRUSTY. HOW'S ABOUT I HIT YOU A COUPLA TIMES WITH MY CAR? SEE WHAT THAT KNOCKS LOOSE.
GOT IT RIGHT OUT IN THE PARKING LOT.
COME ON.
OKAY, LOOK, SOME SKIRT TOOK A HEADER OVER OUR HOOD. RAN RIGHT INTO TRAFFIC. THE PARAMEDICS TOOK HER.
SHE HAD NO I.D. PROBABLY STOLEN AT THE SCENE. PEOPLE GOT NO CLASS THESE DAYS.
PRINTS TURNED UP JACK, AND SHE WENT D.O.A. ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL. LIFE SUCKS. WHATCHA GONNA DO, AM I RIGHT?

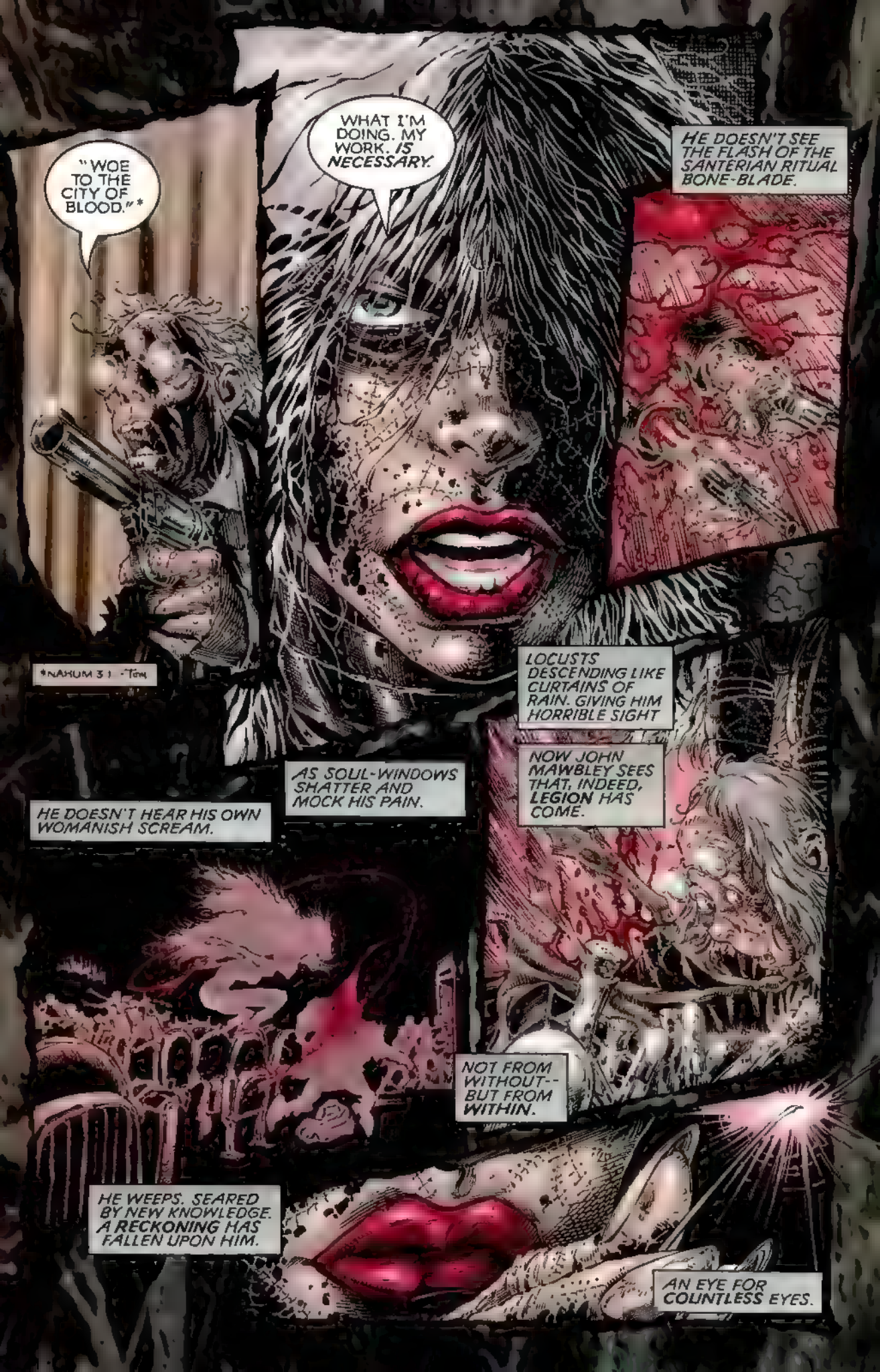

THEY CALL IT THE CITY OF THE DEAD.
CITY MORGUE
D-O-A FILES FOR THE LAST MONTH ARE ON THOSE TWO TABLES. GOOD LUCK.
NOTHING.
MORE DEAD.
WRONG DEAD.
LATER...
TWO DOZEN PAPER CUTS LATER, I THINK WE GOT OURSELVES A WINNER
CLOTHES AND DESCRIPTION ARE EXACT. CAUSE OF DEATH: SEVERE HEAD TRAUMA.
WHERE'S THIS ONE?
'SCUSE MY LUNCH. Hm. THAT'S WEIRD. LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY SCREWED UP THE DATES.
WE USUALLY KEEP THE UNCLAIMED STIFFS FOR THIRTY DAYS JUST IN CASE. YA KNOW? A RELATIVE OR SOMETHING.
BUT THIS ONE GOT PLANTED RIGHT AWAY ACCIDENTS HAPPEN.
WOOPS DAMN.

POTTER'S FIELD. LAND OF THE FORLORN AND FORGOTTEN.
JANE DOE
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
DAMN CITY. :sniff: SHE LOVED IT HERE. WANTED HER TO MOVE UP TO CONNECTICUT. NO. SHE LIKES IT DOWNTOWN. AND NOW...
oh GOD
GRETCHEN
I WANT TO HAVE HER MOVED TO MY FAMILY'S MAUSOLEUM ON LONG ISLAND. WE'LL HAVE A PROPER MEMORIAL.
:Sob:
SIR, THIS MAY SOUND A TAD UNFEELING, BUT I BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE MS. CULVER'S BODY REEXAMINED.
YEAH, I'M WITH YOU, TWITCH. SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT.
GODDAMN THOSE DICKS.
CAN WE GO NOW...?
SHUT YOUR HOLE, RAGWEED. WE MIGHT HAVE US AN UGLY SITUATION HERE.


A SECOND RUN MOVIE HOUSE OFF 42nd.
HOLLYWOOD
ONE PLEASE.
THE RITUAL BEGINS.
HE FEELS THE PRESENCE OF EVIL FROM ALL SIDES. LIKE THE PRESSURE OF THE SEA AT NINETY FATHOMS. HE REMAINS FOCUSED.
TODAY, HIS TASK IS GREAT.
SO MUCH INNOCENCE TAINTED BY THE ENEMY OF PURITY. DEFILER OF ALL THAT SEEKS GOODNESS. THE BLACK AND GHASTLY THING CALLED LEGION.
MAWBLEY HEARS THE TITTERING SCRABBLY VOICES OF THE UNCLEAN. THEY SKITTER ACROSS THE SOULS THAT SURROUND HIM LIKE COCKROACHES ON LINOLEUM.

OR WORSE. LOCUSTS. YES. THEY'RE EVERYWHERE. FLOODING IN MADLY THROUGH OPEN SOUL WINDOWS.
HORROR LOOSED UPON A DWINDLING POPULATION OF TRUE INHERITORS.
HE FEELS THEM NEAR. WRITES IT DOWN. SWEATS THE BLOOD OF HIS MIND UPON THE PAGE... AND KNOWS THAT THE MOMENT. HIS MOMENT. IS NIGH.
AND BEARS WITNESS..
Oh-- MY..
I AM AN INSTRUMENT. A TOOL OF HIS FORGIVENESS.
YOU WILL BE FREED.
YOU WILL SEE THE LIGHT AND THE HOPE THAT AWAITS HIS CHILDREN. Oh HOW I ENVY YOU.
JOHN MAWBLEY RISES. TURNS--


GOD


"WOE TO THE CITY OF BLOOD."*
WHAT I'M DOING. MY WORK. IS NECESSARY.
HE DOESN'T SEE THE FLASH OF THE SANTERIAN RITUAL BONE-BLADE.
*NAHUM 3:1 -Tom
LOCUSTS DESCENDING LIKE CURTAINS OF RAIN. GIVING HIM HORRIBLE SIGHT
NOW JOHN MAWBLEY SEES THAT, INDEED, LEGION HAS COME.
AS SOUL-WINDOWS SHATTER AND MOCK HIS PAIN.
HE DOESN'T HEAR HIS OWN WOMANISH SCREAM.
NOT FROM WITHOUT-- BUT FROM WITHIN.
HE WEEPS. SEARED BY NEW KNOWLEDGE. A RECKONING HAS FALLEN UPON HIM.
AN EYE FOR COUNTLESS EYES.

AFTERMATH:
IT APPEARS YOU'VE CLEARED YOUR CASE, DETECTIVE.
YEAH. JOHN EDWARD MAWBLEY. THE SERIAL SPREE-KILLER KNOWN AS "MISTER PEEPERS."
LOOKS LIKE YOU BOYS HAVE YOUR EYES ON THE EVIDENCE, ALRIGHT.
ANYWAY, THIS MISSING PERSON'S CASE WE'RE WORKING DEAD ENDS WITH YOUR STIFF OVER THERE. WE DUG UP GRETCHEN CULVER'S GRAVE. IT WAS EMPTY. SOMETHING WEIRD'S GOING ON.
PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST US IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY.
A WOMAN, 'KAY? ALL COVERED IN, LIKE, uh, STITCHES AND CRAP.

WHERE DOES THE PAIN GO? THE SCREAMS? THE WAILS FOR MERCY?
WHO WILL MAKE THE TORMENT OF OUR LIVES MATTER? WEIGH THEM ON JUSTICE'S SCALES?
LIFE IS FLUID. DEATH THIRSTS.
SUFFICE TO SAY... SHE DRINKS.

IMAGE INFO

blah, blah, blah 52

Hey! So blah's going to be very short this month. I just returned from Tokyo this Tuesday, went over to discuss Spawn stand-up arcade games with a very famous and reputable game company. Stay tuned for breaking information on this at a later date. But what else did I do there you ask?

I SAW KISS ..AND THEY ROCKED!!!

Yup. Proof's in the pics. Gene and the boys were nice enough to have us come backstage prior to their sold-out show (55,000) at the Tokyo Dome. We hung out, talked the biz (comics, TOYS, rock n'roll, etc.) As for the photos, in case you need the reminder, top left is **Ace Frehley**, bottom left **Paul Stanley** with Takuya Kubo (a freelance journalist in Japan) and myself, bottom right **Peter Criss** with Hiroaki Iseki (McFarlane Toys distributor in Japan) and top right the man himself **Gene Simmons** and yours truly.

The guys took the stage at six and tore it up for over two hours, playing all of your favorites, Cold Gin, Detroit Rock City, Beth, Shout It Out Loud, Rock and Roll All Nite, and my fave, Firehouse, whereupon the stage is aflame with red lights and Gene comes onstage with a lit torch and proceeds to breath fire. Too cool.

Of course Gene also spewed blood onto the folks in the first three rows of the floor. They just seemed to roar that much louder. Ace shot out a couple of stage rigging lights with his firing "missile" guitar. Paul had all of the women in a tizzy over his bare chest and slick moves. And Peter wowed everyone with a monstrous drum solo during which his stage rose over forty feet in the air. Wicked stuff.

They are off to New Zealand and Australia after Japan, then back to the US for four more months of shows. If you missed them, what were you thinking? Camp out to pick up some tix. You won't be disappointed!

Thanks again guys for the time and the pics, Gene for the talk, and Tommy for setting everything up.

-terry fitzgerald

CURSE WORDS

CURSE WORDS P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ. 85285-7228
HTTP://WWW.SPAWN.COM

Todd McFarlane

I'm hooked. My friend showed me her issue of *Curse of the Spawn*. I read it and then went out to buy my own copy. Just got done reading *Curse of the Spawn #2* and I can't wait for the third issue. The art work is amazing. The only problem with the second issue is the paper it's printed on. Why the change in paper? Issue #1 feels like a comic book but #2 feels like a magazine. I hope the new paper is only temporary.

All for now and keep up the good work.

PS. Could you send me a list of all the Spawn toys that have been made so far? I have some of the toys but I'm not sure which ones I'm missing and I would like to get as many as my limited funds will let me. Thanks for your time.

Sarah Barnes
Brunswick, ME

I'm not quite sure where your question is coming from in terms of different paper used. The paper stock of issue #1 is the exact same as issue #2. The only thing that might explain it is we did make a technical correction in terms of decreasing the amount of ink going on each page, so maybe they seem a bit thinner. The other possibility is that you picked up a newsstand version of the book which is printed on a bit cheaper paper. Check in this month's End Cap for a list of all the toys.

Dear Curse of the Spawn

I want to say thank you for putting out such a wonderful, diverse book. It was a great pleasure to see that it was not a copy of Spawn, like what most of the market does with their spin-off titles. I like that you are keeping this title with a rotating story and crew to allow it to stay fresh and exciting. I hope that each new story has it's own look and feel. I challenge you to be daring, try telling stories that others have not clone (how about a story line done as an epic poem?). I want to see something new and original. I know that you might miss the mark once in a while but with rotating story lines they won't last long. I would love to see a story by Elaine Lee. She wrote the wonderful book Saint Sinner for Marvel's Razor Line imprint a few years ago. Her grasp on horror and inner turmoil is beautiful. As for other writers how about Ho Che Anderson, Sam Keith, Akam Blaustein, John Rozum, Colleen Doran, Gregory, or Ann Nocenti, just to name a few. And some possible artists could be Sam Keith, Chriss Williams (Chris Cross), Scott McCloud, Stephen Bissette, John Van Fleet, Humberto Ramos, or Jae Lee would be a nice eclectic mix. I think you know this by now but great books are not made by imitation but by taking chances. Hope to be with you in the long run and love it so far.

PS. Thank you, Todd, for staying faithful to Spawn and it's fans. In this unstable market, I can always trust any Spawn related item will be of top quality.

Be Seeing You,
Chris Bratt Age 23
Medina, Ohio

It looks like you've got a good grasp of what we're trying to convey here with the book in presenting different ideas in different ways. Your suggestions such as doing things as a poem are things that have always intrigued me in keeping the book fresh and making it so the book doesn't become stagnant. Thanks for suggesting some of the names. For now, this book will be controlled by the original creative team until such time as any one of them need a bit of a break. I think you'll see a departure between different kinds of stories like now with Sam & Twitch and then we jump headlong into the origin of Angela. My plan is to keep this book different than the regular book. Hope you hang around for the ride.

Todd

First, like many people, I would like to congratulate you on the new *Curse of the Spawn* run-off series. It is a wonderful idea. But it's main point creates one question that may be answered by the time you read this letter (Don't worry - I have other questions). For each new Curse story how much issue will it take to move on to the next one? The only problem I have with this is the fear that I might be reading about the same character for months and months etc. I'd much rather read a story about one character for about three issues and go the next knowing that there are more almost completely different stories with different Spawns in them instead of reading about the same one for about five to six long months! Don't worry, I'll still continue to buy the comic.

Anyway, will you be making any of the *Curse of the Spawn* stories based on any of the toys? I most definitely want to read about a She-Spawn. It would be nice to hear a bit about the infamous Ninja Spawn that you got so many complaints about. You might as well give the character some dignity by giving it a story. And while I'm on the subject of Spawn characters did you ever think about the FIRST Spawn? After all, everything has to start somewhere.

Next, will any normal Spawn villains be appearing in any upcoming issues? I'd like to see a Redeemer Angela, or Violator go at someone else. What about some of the other Phlebiac brothers? Hey why not the Curse at a younger age? maybe when he still had both arms or eyes.

That about sums it up. Keep up the good work and congrats once more.

PS. In issue #53, did Kincaid really die when Spawn chopped of his head? After all, Spawn was a most completely disemboweled and his costume saw to it that he survived.

Charles Ivey
Greensboro, NC

I haven't really put any predetermined length to the story. Instead, I'm just allowing each story to take on a life of its own. I don't want to hinder any writer in blocking a certain amount of space in which he has to tell a story; I'm more concerned with letting the story determine the amount of space. To that end, there could be a surprise at any time. I don't really want the readers to know what's coming out, but keep them guessing.

As I've said before the toys are the toys and they exist because I need to move a certain amount of units to stay in the toy business. It doesn't necessarily preclude using them, but for now my guess is, I'll be very selective which figures I use. However, they have to make sense with why I'm putting them in a story.

The stories could be based upon some of the villains as well as the heroes. They could also be about Wanda spending the day with Cyan. It's too early in the game with this book to set any notions; it's more about getting the right stories instead of the right characters. I'm willing to use just about anybody to expand our story lines.

Dear Curse Crew

I'm a 19 year old soldier trying to find manhood in the U.S. Army right here in Fort Huchicuchi, Arizona. I would like to open this letter with "I love those necro-soldiers Simmons will always be the man but the new Spawn tears it up. I'm sort of an artist but this stuff is beyond incredible guys."

Okay, enough brown-nosing. I'll just get to the point. I'm a medieval fanatic with a fascination for swords, crossbows and other man-poppers. The HellSpawn were chosen mainly because they were incredible warriors, right? I mean that's why I buy your books. (I have every cross-over and appearance of Spawn, for those who care.) My favorites are Medieval Spawn and Viking spawn. If you need to find warriors, find the champions in the ages of Heroes. Medieval Spawn from the Dark Ages in a world where bloodshed was a respected way to get things done. A Knight! That's one. A blood spilling, raping, burning, uncaring Viking. Beautiful. That's two. Now one of my favorites. Dark Ages - Japan. I've done countless history reports and research on these incredible people who built Daimyo Castles with paper walls and lopped off the heads of rice carrying peasants just to make sure their sword was sharp. Please research the Japanese Samurai. I'll indulge myself. Honor and war were life. They believed there was no limit to the skills they could possess, but always tried to find one. And Pride. No matter how close a Samurai who walked into his friend's house and found him without his sword would kill him instantly. The slightest dishonor led them to disembowel themselves! The swords they slept with, battled with and ate with never left their sides. The heads of their enemies were cleaned, make-up'ed and presented to the Emperor on wooden plaques. Defeated the Kahn's invasion easily with our skill. The smiths use to line up prisoners in single file and then swing. The number of people he cleaved in half with one swing was the number he carved on the newly forged sword's hilt to describe it's quality. Man, please research these guys! It's just too damn cool NOT to use! A Rogue Spawn man Kafana Wakasashi Naginata. Just brings a tear to my eye. Guys if I have to beg, I will.

PS. Gladiator Spawn from Rome. Kahn Spawn (horseman). Archer Spawn (kind of undead version of Robin Hood). Cave man Spawn (killing mammoths and other cavemen). Yabba Dabba DOO. I'm serious man.

Anxious/DESPERATE
Kenneth P. Ferguson

My limited knowledge of history also tells me there's an abundance of stories waiting to be told from each of these eras and different cultures you speak of. Again, it's just a matter of patience and being so active on my part as to which ones merit special attention in the context of different Spawn characters. The ones that have the cool visual appeal are also the stories that I like to read about, too. But again, since I'm not writing these stories I do like to keep the doors open for each writer to bring in interesting notes. I'll look into some of these fascinating characters and see if there is something that stands out and appeals to me.

Dear Todd McFarlane and comp

I am a long time fan of Spawn since the beginning. I have loved every issue and every cross over and new title. Until now. I just read *Curse of the Spawn #5*. And I am disgusted and outraged at the story line. Where cops take a helpless injured woman and rape her then beat her to a most death because she fights back. This is degrative and sick. I am sick to even see it in a comic book especially one as respected as Spawn. I am sorry to say this if you would allow such a thing to go in one of your comics, then maybe you have just lost a fan. I can not even finish reading this book, and I will throw it out. I could not stand to have something as vulgar as that in my collection. I'm sorry to be let down in such a way but I hope some little kid doesn't read this book.

Sincerely
Richard W. Koch
Niagara Falls NY
A former Fan!

Ultimately we all have to make personal choices on what we think is right and wrong. So other than slapping a bit of a warning on that issue, it doesn't and shouldn't negate the existence of the story. The atrocities that occur in our world are some of the things that give food for thought in both entertainment and literature. May I suggest you finish reading this story line to see what the end result is before making your final decision. If not, like I said, we all have to do what we feel is personally acceptable and yours may be that this isn't the kind of book that's suitable for you.

Dear Alan, Dwayne, and cohorts

Okay. The first thought that came to my mind after reading *Curse of the Spawn #5* was one of shock. I was completely blown away by this issue. Normally, I can set down the latest issue of one of my many comics that I read each month and wander off happily in search of whatever work I was avoiding in the first place. That was not possible with this issue. I had to sit down and really think this one through.

As a 23-year old English teacher in my first year teaching in a small town, all I can think of is, "Do people really do these kinds of things?" I know I've seen the police corruption, the brutal murders, etc. in a thousand other comics and books, but it was written and drawn so startlingly REAL in this issue that I literally became mad.

As I explain to my writing students, good writing invokes emotions in its readers. There are too many comics out today that I forget what they were about a week later. They do not appeal to my inner self, the critical reader in me. *Curse of the Spawn #5* is not an issue I will soon forget. If ever. Mr. McElroy and Mr. Turner do such a good job of portraying the worst in humanity that I wanted to do something to make up for the evil in the comic. I just felt an urge to do something other than go back to correcting spelling tests.

Instead, I read a more light hearted comic to make me feel better about my fellow people. It didn't work, because here I am sitting up late to type this letter rather than get much needed sleep. If school standards would permit me to teach this issue as an example of good writing, I would in a heartbeat. Unfortunately the maturity level of some high school students and the ever watchful eye of parents and administrators will not allow that.

Kudos once again on producing such a thought provoking and (unfortunately) realistic issue. Keep up the A+ work.

Sincerely
Mark A. Domenier
New Richland, MN

Again, this shows another example of what we have to deal with in terms of response to a single issue. While the previous reader thought we'd gone too far, another one is thanking us for writing about something that is taboo. Is one any more valid than the other? Ultimately no, given that what makes sense is for each of us to guide ourselves into what we feel is a comfort zone we can live with. Mr. Domenier would like to teach this to a body of students but is smart enough to know that it wouldn't appeal to every child and/or their parents and so instead must keep whatever insight he would like to share to himself. So it raises the question that I always come back to and have for pretty much my entire career, which is: Who do you write these stories for? And I keep coming back to the same answer. Almost everything I've done is something I would want to see done myself and I've been pretty fortunate that a large portion of society or at least the male gender is in to some of the darker side of humanity. It doesn't mean that I endorse this or that I want people to do this, but anything that has a creepy feel to it has always been fairly alluring to me. As I've stated before, this book, thanks to the vivid imagination of Alan McElroy, will not be a book for everyone's taste.

End Cap

This edition of **End Cap** concludes the last of three installments that answer your questions regarding figure variations created by **McFarlane Toys** from 1994 to 1996. Stay tuned to future **End Caps** for updates and listings of upcoming series...

SPAWN SERIES FIVE JULY OF 1996

Gore
First paint job was flesh-colored, with grey trim, while the repaint was silver with gold trim. The repaint also had a slightly different mold used for the head (an nose, more "skull-like").
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Tremor II
The original was painted orange, with red blood, while the repaint was purple with green blood.
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Nuclear Spawn
First out was the orange-skinned version with a green shirt, which was followed by the green-skinned version with a silver shirt.
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Widow Maker
The first paint job had a purple and rose colored outfit on a grey body, while the repaint was black and licorice red on a flesh-colored body.
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Vandal
g, the second was more of a
on his head was unpainted.

trim (see variations)
brown bag.
ak, and light skin (no
ORIAL, while the
brown on others.

SPAWN SERIES SIX ...ber 1996

Alien Spawn
The original paint shipment was black and ...ite (like Spawn), while repaint was ... (white with bl... ouch of red.
Known Variants: All cards on the series six changed from a lightning effect behind the character to a series of white diagonal lines behind the character.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

...with a red trimmed costume, while the
...on the series six changed from a lightning
...cter to a series of white diagonal lines behind the
...ase carried was silver and gold, which later
...metimes with a pinkish hue.
...None.

Superpatriot
The first version was with silver arms and legs, and a yellow shirt, while the repaints were metallic-blue arms and legs, and had a dark blue shirt.
Known Variants: All cards on the series six changed from a lightning effect behind the character to a series of white diagonal lines behind the character. Some cards had the name of the figure in red, white, and blue (almost impossible to read), while most were in yellow.
The gurn gained a black "speckling."
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Battleclad Spawn
The first paint version had black costume-armor, while the repaint had tan versions.
Known Variants: All cards on the series six changed from a lightning effect behind the character to a series of white diagonal lines behind the character. Some came without peg-holes in the torso, arms, and legs (which were needed to secure the armor).
Exclusive Versions?: None.

The Freak
The original had tan flesh and black/silver weapons, while the ...purplish flesh and brown/silver weapons.
...Variants: All cards on the series six changed from a ... effect behind the character to a series of white diagonal lines behind the character. A goatee was painted on in later figures of the paint series, along with red ...tong" was unpainted.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Sarisker
First paint series was brown and tan, while the repaints were all black and yellow.
Known Variants: All ...ards on the series six changed from a ... effect behind the ... white diagonal lines behind the character.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

SPAWN SERIES FIVE *Viking Spawn and Tremor II*

TOTAL CHAOS SERIES ONE *Al Simmons and Thorax*

TOTAL CHAOS SERIES ONE OCTOBER OF 1996

Dragon Blade
Originally came with white tunic and silver elements, the repaint was a black tunic over black and gold chainmail.
Known Variants: First version had shorter dragon on tunic (all above the belt). Black was added to the helmet crosses. The spear was ...inforced (black handle instead of all silver) and blood speckles ...ded. Upper right arm-piece changed from ...er to purple.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Gore
The character was replaced in the ...ts by ...
Spawn body with silver/green body, ...ic and cow, and the head from Spawn №50.
Known Variants: A green wash was added ... the brass pieces on his arm and leg.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Hoof
First version was grey body with brown armor, the repaint was a black body with khaki armor.
Known Variants: ...bel (...-silver "bullet ... ...d. Blue color was add... ...brown arm-pieces.
Exclusive Ver...: None.

Al Simmons
The original paint ... had a grey uniform, while the repaint had a blueish uniform.
Known Variants: Color on "stencil" on uniform changed from black to yellow. Black wash was added ... uniform. Grenades on chest changed colors.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Thorax
While the ... his bug was green and red, the repaint was black and ...
Known Variant... ...ure initially shipped with only TWO ... noses, it was later in... ... to four.
Exclusive Ver...

Thresher
The lady originally ... skin (not the green in ...ete) but ... the repaint was a shade of ...
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

OTHER FIGURES/VEHICLES/PLAYSETS

Spawnmobile
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Violator Monster Rig
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Spawn Alley
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Spawn Air Cycle
Shipped with special Pilot Spawn ...
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Medieval Spawn Battle Horse
Shipped with special Medieval Spawn figure.
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Violator Chopper
Shipped with special double-size bendable grey Violator figure.
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

13" Spawn
Known Variants: Sticker was added to box extolling "Bendable Cape".
Exclusive Versions?: None.

13" Angela
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Spawn/Violator PVC Set
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: Done in pewter-color for FAO Schwartz in Spring of 1995.

Maleboigia/Medieval Spawn 2-pack
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: Only released in K-Mart, late Fall of 1995.

Violator/Commando Spawn 2-pack
Known Variants: None.
Exclusive Versions?: Only available in Target, December of 1995.

Future Spawn
While Future Spawn is shown in group shots with Spawn Series Three, he was NOT part of the assortment. The original version was red-trimmed, with a green visor, while the repaint was mostly black, with a clear visor.
Known Variants: Some of the original paints shipped on a card (glued to the box), while most were simply boxed. Also, some of the first paints shipped with the "fangs" pointing up, while others shipped with the fangs pointing down.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

Mutant Spawn
The original version came with two poseable tentacles and a rust-colored body. The repaints had four BENDABLE tentacles, and had blue or tan patches added to the body paint.
Known Variants: First shipment had only two "wings", while later versions of the original came with four wings. Repaint came with red shoulder-eyes and tan patches and jaw, or silver shoulder-eyes with blue patches and jaw.
Exclusive Versions?: None.

SPAWN SERIES SIX *Mutant Spawn*

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SPAWN #58

By Todd McFarlane and Greg Capullo

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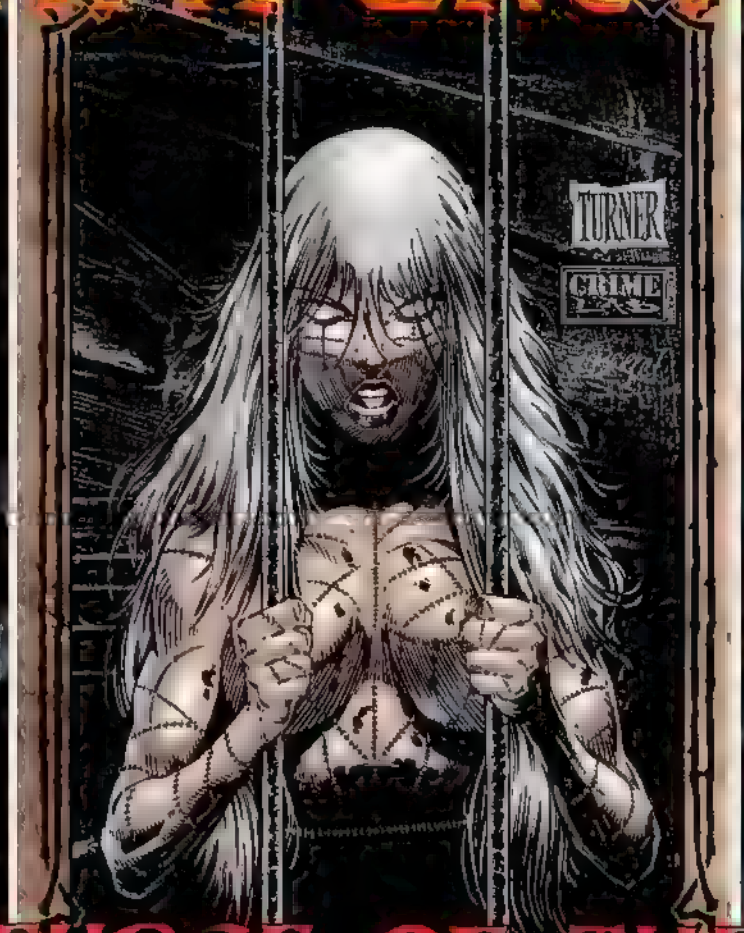
After Spawn impulsively tattooed the words "I beat my kids" all over the body of Eddie and Andy's dad in issue #29, Spawn swiftly left town.

He had no idea that his rash act set off a chain of events that led to the boys killing their father in self-defense.

Now, the two youngsters trek to New York in search of Spawn and once again Andy and Eddie find their destiny entwined with Spawn's.

THE STENCH OF DEATH GROWS!

The Curse of the Spawn cuts to the bone as the serial killer, Suture, is captured and held in NYPD's central lockup. Meanwhile, after they have been warned off the case by big shots at NYPD, Sam and Twitch close in on



Gretchen Culver's killer who is trying to bury the evidence. Sam and Twitch race against time to stop a slaughter that will fill the morgues with New York's finest.

Prepare for the bloodletting.

CURSE OF THE SPAWN #7

By Alan McElroy, Dwayne Turner and Danny Miki.

The monthly comic from Todd McFarlane's studio for only $1.95.

Check out the Spawn website at http://www.spawn.com

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image

LIFE'S END
THE SAVAGE DRAGON
#38
image

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I got this ballot from: _____

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5. FAVORITE COLORIST _____
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8. FAVORITE COVER ARTIST _____
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